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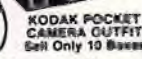
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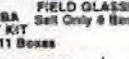
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AUTHOR PENCILER INKER GLYNIS WEIN, colorist EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THERE'S SOMETHING **AWFUL** ON **MUIR ISLAND!**

ONCE UPON A
TIME, THERE
WAS A YOUNG
WOMAN NAMED
JEAN GREY--
A MUTANT
TELEPATH/
TELEKINETIC,
AND ONE OF THE
FOUNDING
MEMBERS OF THE
UNCANNY X-MEN.

NOW, SHE IS
phoenix.

AND FOR HER, FOR THOSE SHE LOVES AND WHO
LOVE HER--AND PERHAPS FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD
--NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

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THIS IS DR. MOIRA MACTAGGERT-- SECOND ONLY TO CHARLES XAVIER AS AN AUTHORITY ON GENETIC MUTATION. SHE'S SCOTS-- A HIGHLANDER BORN AND BRED-- AND SHE DOESN'T SCARE EASILY.



BUT TODAY, LOOKING AT THIS WOMAN SHE'S COME TO LOVE AS THE DAUGHTER SHE CAN NEVER DARE HAVE... MOIRA MACTAGGERT IS AFRAID.



HOW MUCH LONGER, MOIRA?

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THIS IS GETTING TO BE A REAL DRAG.

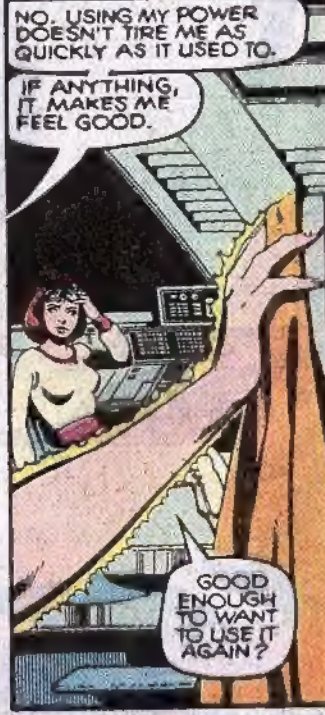


YOU CAN POWER DOWN, JEAN. I THINK I'VE GOT ALL THE RAW DATA I NEED.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

FINE.

NOT TIRED?



NO. USING MY POWER DOESN'T TIRE ME AS QUICKLY AS IT USED TO.

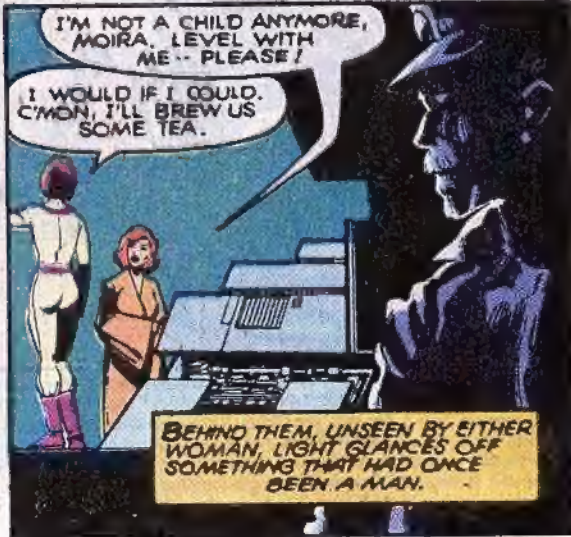
IF ANYTHING, IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD.

GOOD ENOUGH TO WANT TO USE IT AGAIN?



WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING AT, MOIRA? YOU'VE BEEN POKING AT ME FOR OVER A WEEK. YOU MUST HAVE SOME ANSWERS.

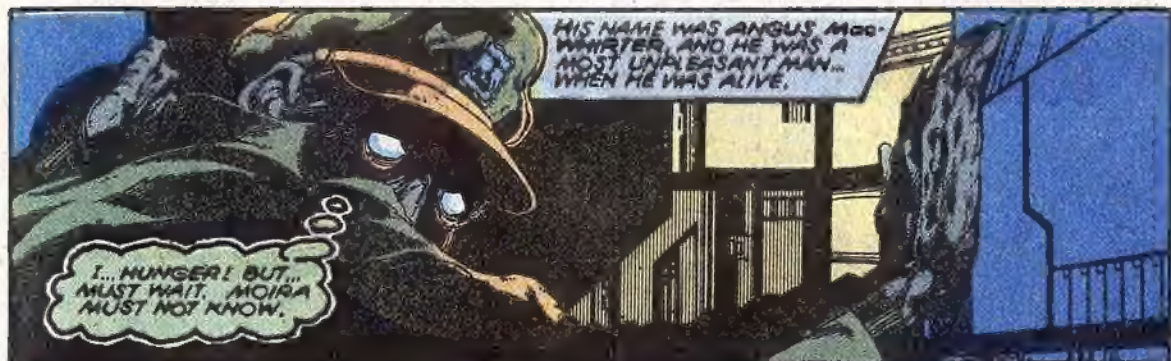
JEAN, I'M JUST BARELY FIGURING OUT THE QUESTIONS.



I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, MOIRA. LEVEL WITH ME-- PLEASE!

I WOULD IF I COULD. C'MON, I'LL BREW US SOME TEA.

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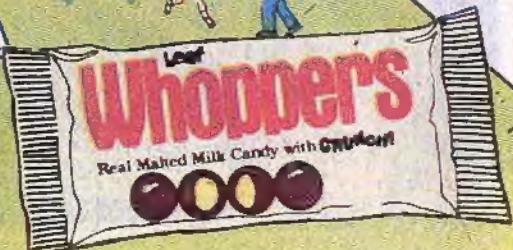
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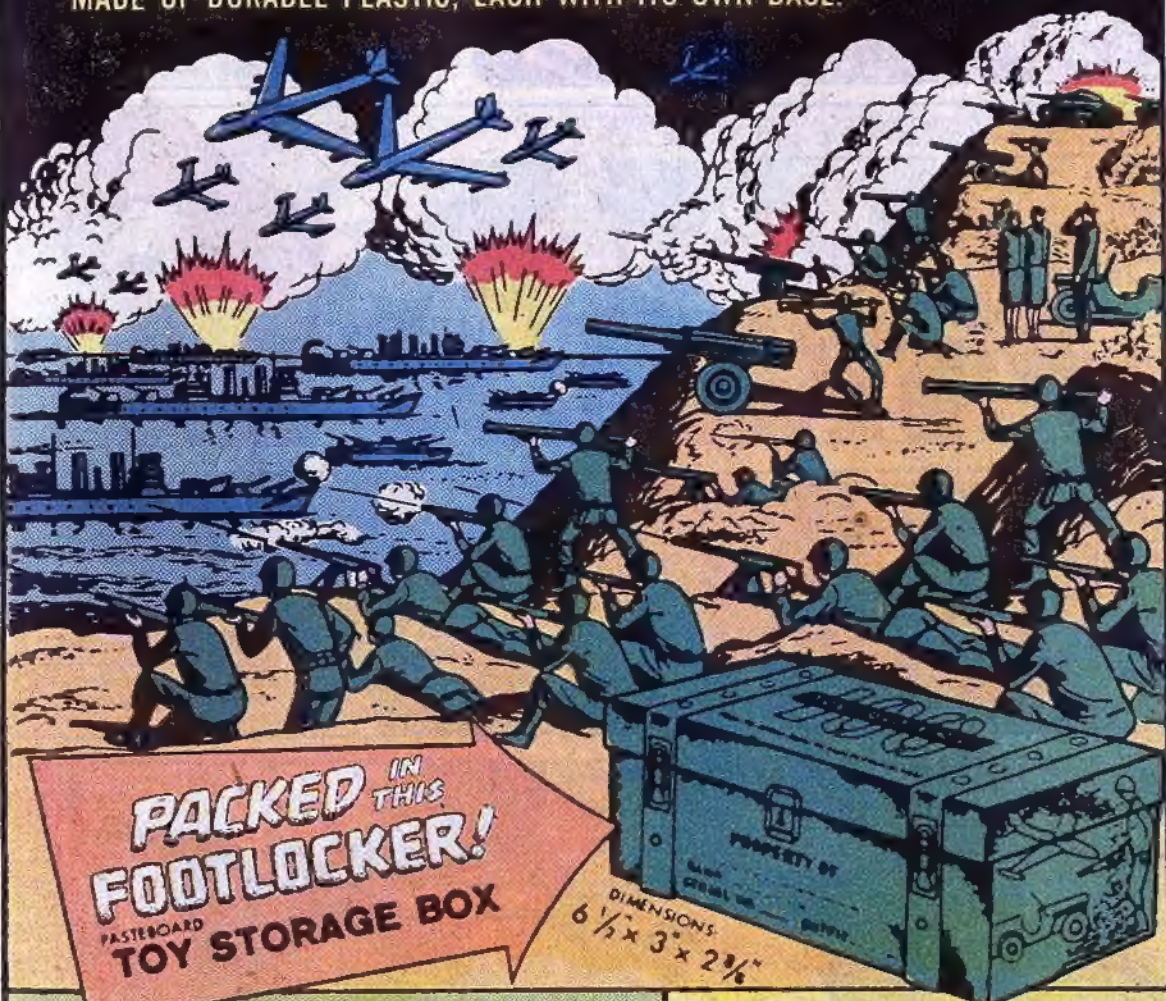


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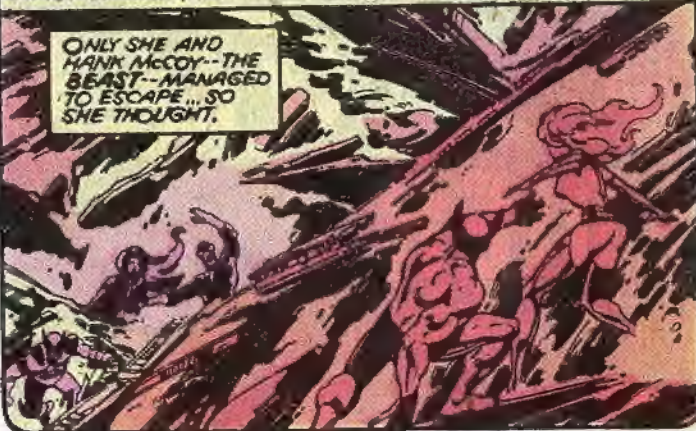
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Imaginary War Scene Shown

FAR WORSE-- SHE WAS UNABLE TO SAVE HER FELLOW X-MEN WHEN MAGNETO'S UNDERGROUND ANTARCTIC BASE COLLAPSED ON TOP OF THEM, BURYING THEM ALL IN MOLTEN LAVA.

ONLY SHE AND HANK MCCOY--THE BEAST--MANAGED TO ESCAPE... SO SHE THOUGHT.



GRIEF-STRIKEN, JEAN RETURNED TO THE X-MEN'S HEADQUARTERS... ONLY TO WATCH, HELPLESS, AS PROFESSOR XAVIER'S OWN GRIEF BUILT AN UNBREACHABLE WALL BETWEEN THEM.



SHE NEEDED HIS HELP, SUPPORT... AND LOVE-- BUT HE GAVE HER NOTHING. SO, SHE LEFT.

FROM THE START, HER VACATION WAS SHEER PERFECTION. NO MATTER WHERE SHE WENT, SHE RAN INTO KIND, GENTLE PEOPLE--



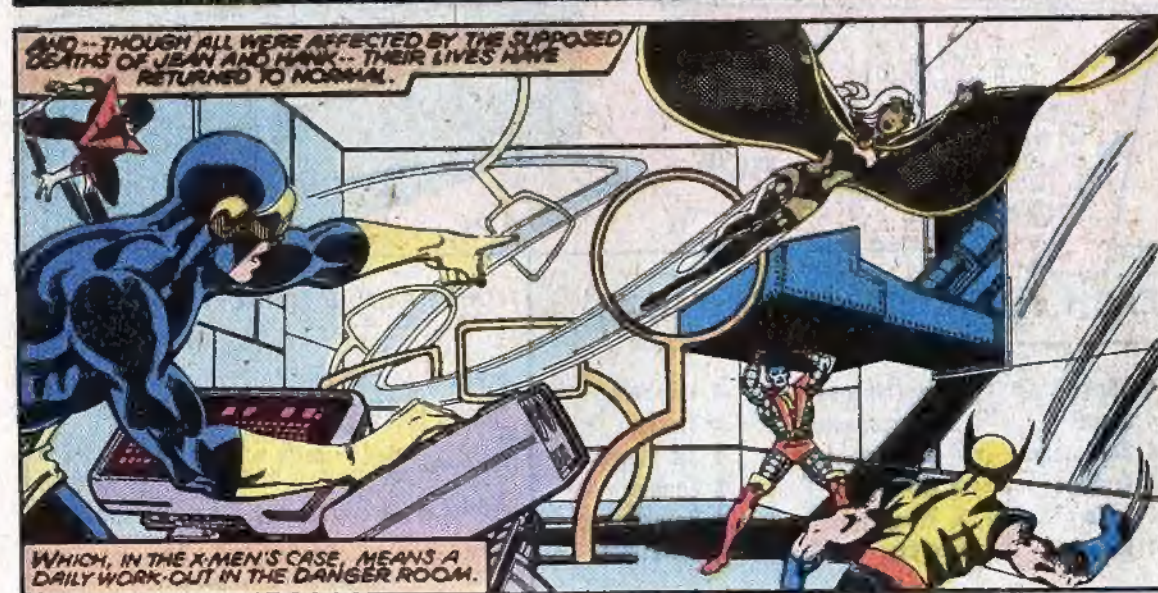
--AND IN TIME, HER PAIN PASSED, HER LIFE BEGAN ANEW.

THE TERRIBLE, TRAGIC IRONY IS THAT HER GRIEF WAS UNNECESSARY-- FOR THE X-MEN DID NOT DIE IN MAGNETO'S FORTRESS. AS JEAN AND HANK ESCAPED TO THE SURFACE--



-- THE X-MEN BURROWED DOWN UNTIL AT LAST THEY REACHED A SAFE HAVEN OF SORTS. AND NOW, AFTER A JOURNEY THAT TOOK THEM HALFWAY ROUND THE WORLD, THEY'VE FINALLY RETURNED HOME TO WESTCHESTER.

AND--THOUGH ALL WERE AFFECTED BY THE SUPPOSED DEATHS OF JEAN AND HANK-- THEIR LIVES HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL.



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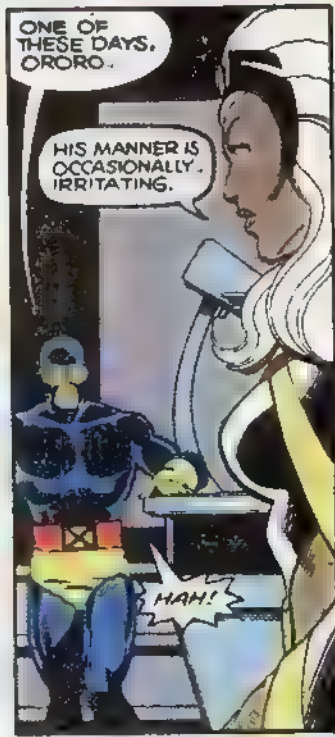
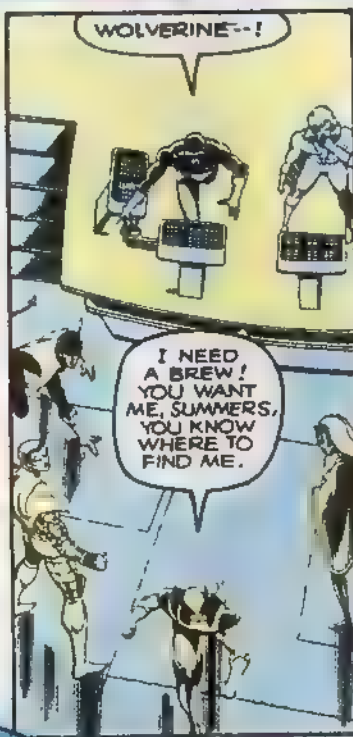
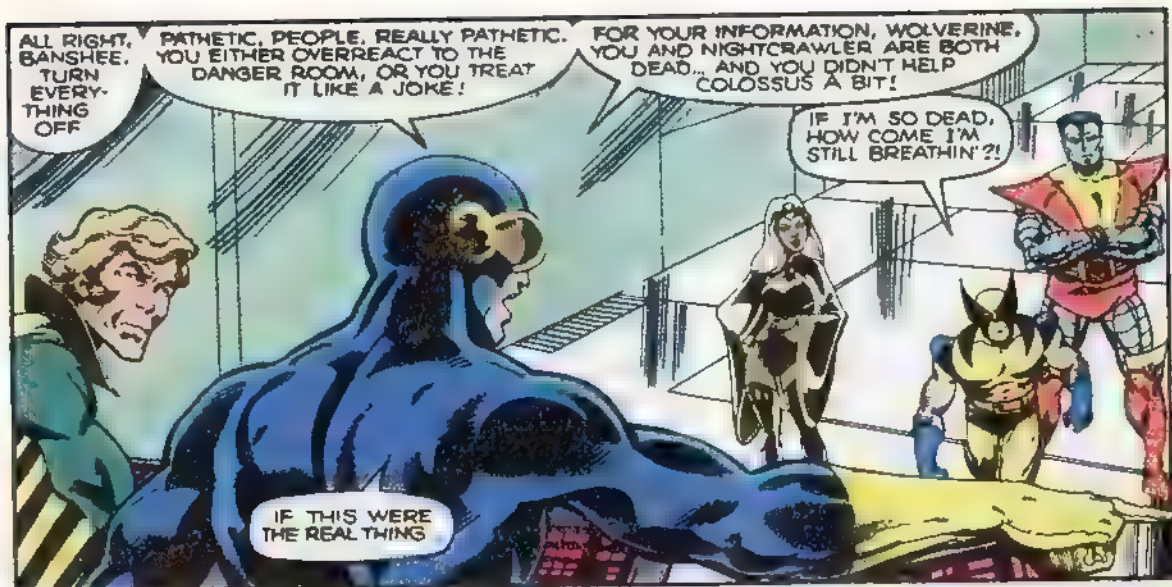
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THIS IS ASTEROID M... THE HOME OF MAGNETO.

EVER SINCE HIS BATTLE
WITH THE X-MEN BENEATH
ANTARCTICA, HE'S BEEN
HERE NURSING HIS
WOUNDS, REGAINING
HIS STRENGTH...



REFINING HIS PLANS
TO BECOME MASTER
OF THE WORLD.

ABRUPTLY, THE IMAGE ON THE
SCREEN BEFORE HIM CHANGES...

MAGDA!
BUT HOW...?
OH... I
SEE.



THE MEMORY CIRCUITS
HAVE ACCIDENTLY
CROSS-CONNECTED.

MAGDA... MY LATE
WIFE. I'D ALMOST
FORGOTTEN HOW
BEAUTIFUL YOU
WERE...



...HOW DEEPLY IT
HURT WHEN YOU
RAN AWAY FROM
ME.



BUT THAT WAS
LONG AGO, WHEN
I STILL BELIEVED
I WAS...



...ONLY
HUMAN.

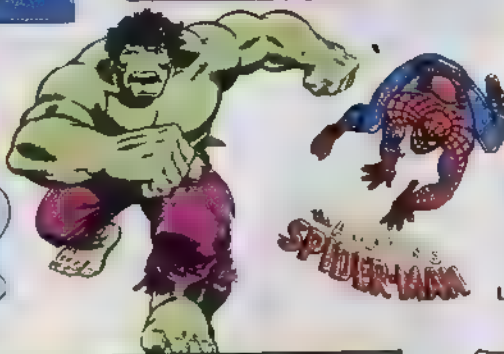
"I AM OLDER NOW, AND I'VE LEARNED MY LESSONS WELL
SOON ALL THE WORLD WILL TREMBLE BEFORE MY POWER!"

BUT MAGNETO ISN'T THE
ONLY ONE WITH PLANS
AFOOT THIS MORNING...

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- CAP AMERICA
- THOR
- CONAN
- BATTLESTAR GALACTICA
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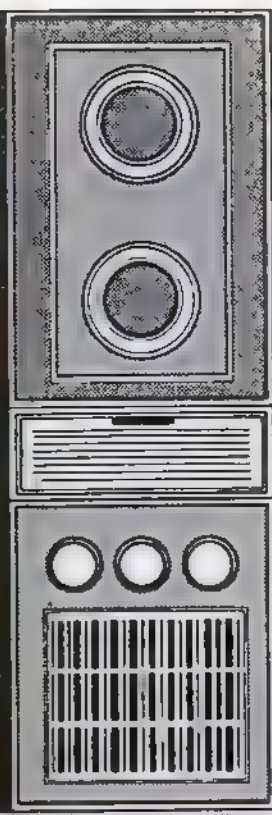
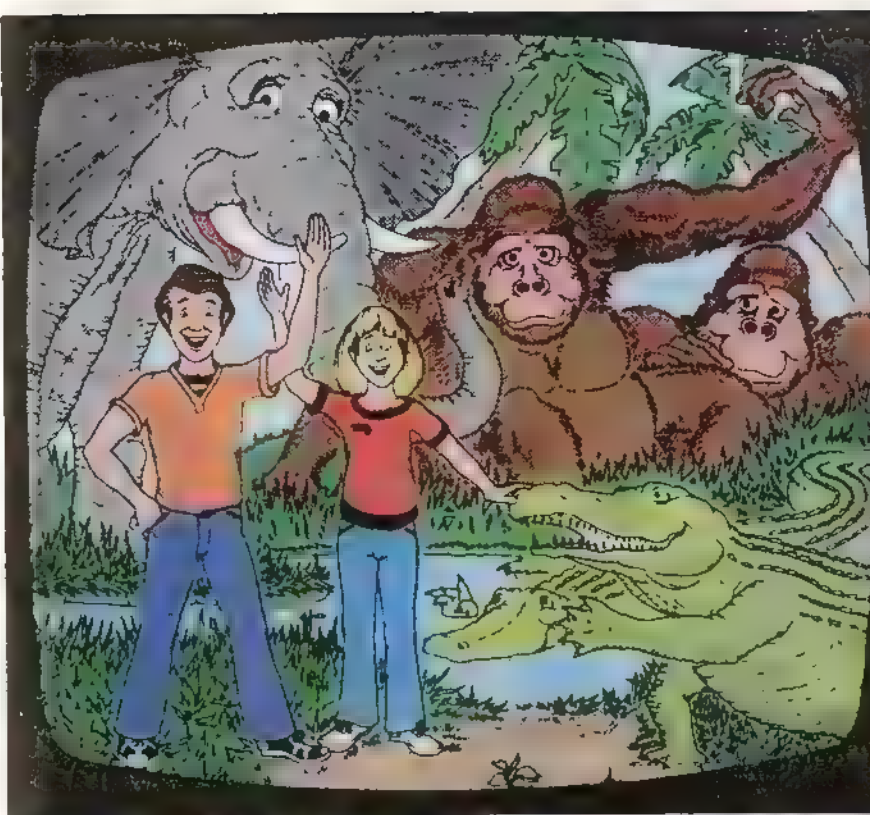
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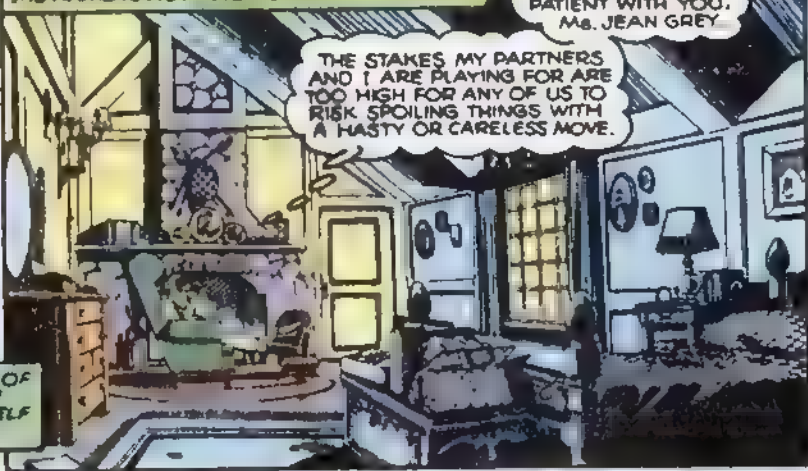
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— FOR IN THE TOWN OF STORNOWAY, IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES ISLANDS NEAR SCOTLAND'S RUGGED NORTH-WEST COAST—



...IN AN UPSTAIRS ROOM OF THE RED LION INN • IS A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF JASON WYNGARDE

THE NAME IS AS FALSE AS THE MAN HIMSELF



I'VE BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH YOU, M^{RS}. JEAN GREY

THE STAKES MY PARTNERS AND I ARE PLAYING FOR ARE TOO HIGH FOR ANY OF US TO RISK SPOILING THINGS WITH A HASTY OR CARELESS MOVE.

YOU DON'T KNOW IT, MY DEAR, BUT I'VE BEEN BY YOUR SIDE EVER SINCE YOU LEFT THE SAFETY OF XAVIER'S MANSION.



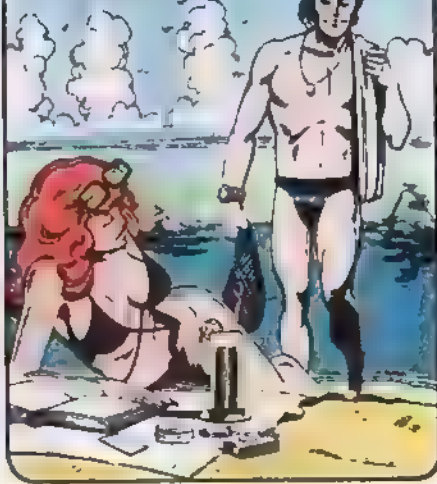
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"...IN THE GUISE OF A POLY-POLY PRIEST..."

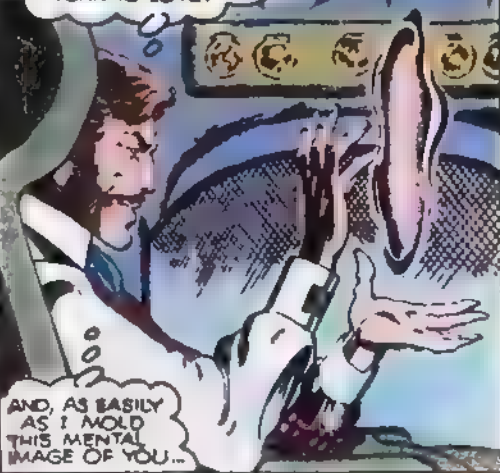


PARDON ME FOR PRYIN', MISS, BUT IS ANYTHIN' THE MATTER?

"AND LATER -- IN MANY FACES AND FORMS -- I TRIED TO FILL THE EMOTIONAL VOID WITHIN YOU, UNTIL I CAME TO KNOW YOU BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF



THOUGH YOU'VE MET ME -- AS "JASON WYNGARDE" -- ONLY ONCE, YOU INSTINCTIVELY TRUST ME. SOON, THAT TRUST WILL TURN TO LOVE.



AND, AS EASILY AS I MOLD THIS MENTAL IMAGE OF YOU...

"FROM THE DAY YOU FIRST MET THE X-MEN

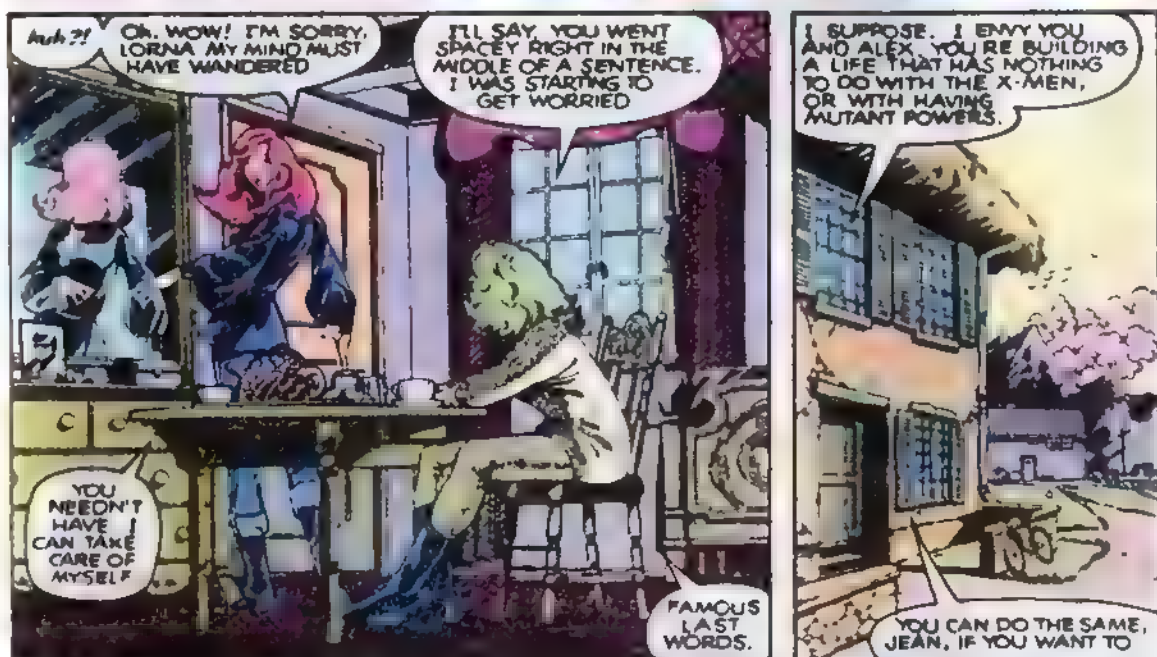
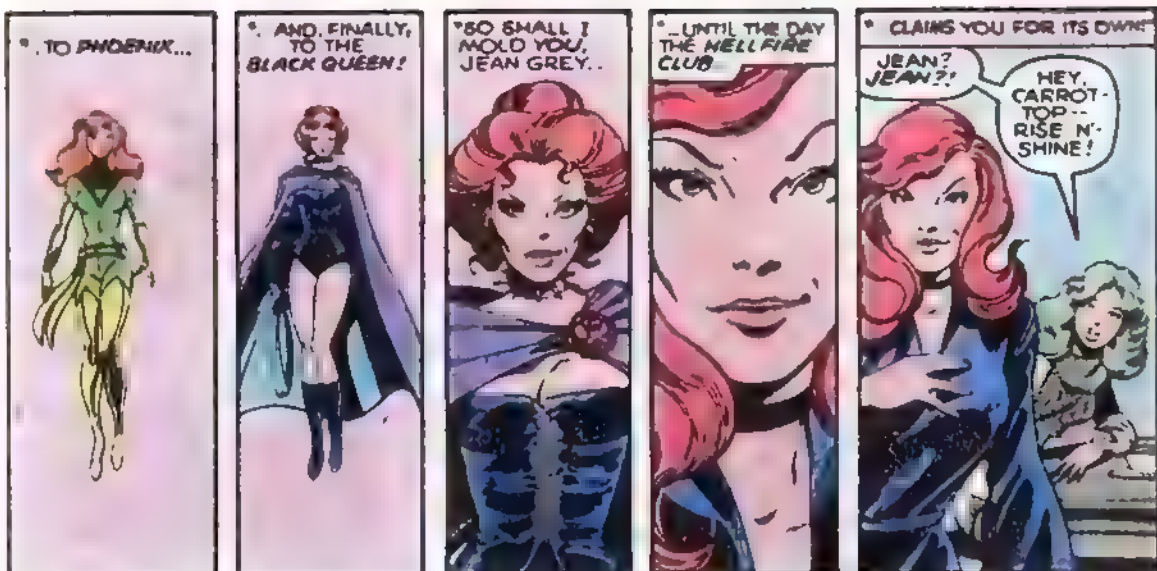


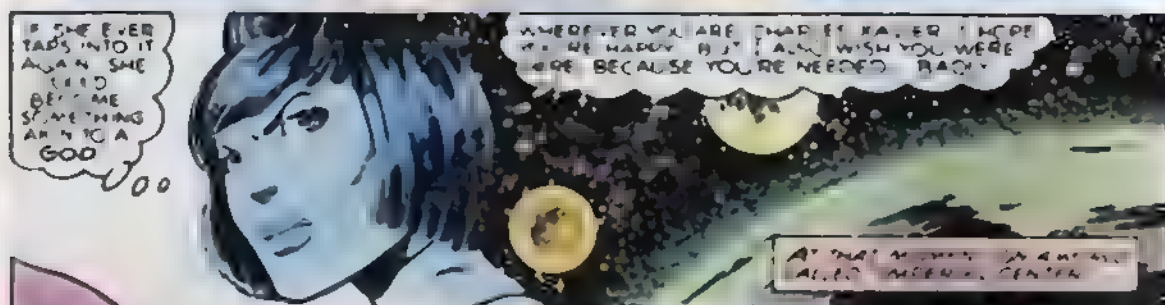
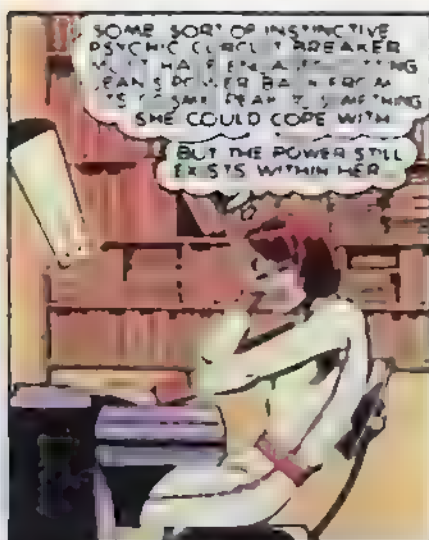
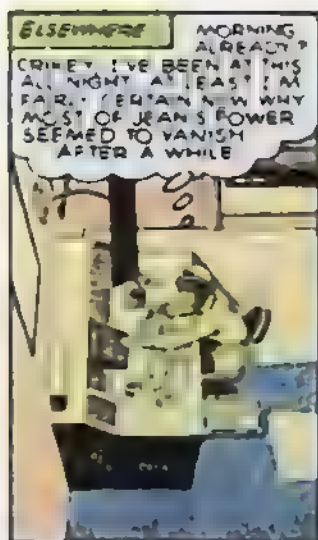
"TO YOUR ORIGINAL MARVEL GIRL GARB



"TO THE OLDER, WISER MARVEL GIRL..."



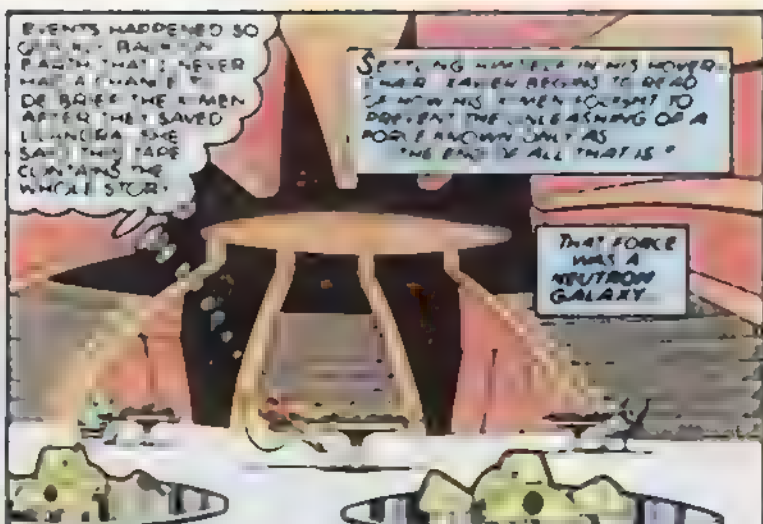






EVERYONE HERE
EXCEPT LANCHIRA
THREATS ME. HE SOME
SAY IT'S A LAMP, BUT
BUT PERHAPS BY THE
STANDARDS I AM

THE EMERALD
RIF
PLEASE



EVENTS HAPPENED SO
QUICKLY THAT I NEVER
HAD A CHANCE TO
DEBRIEF THE KAREN
AFTER THEY SAVED
LANCHIRA. SHE
SAID THIS TAPE
CONTAINS THE
WHOLE STORY.

SEPPING HIMSELF IN HIS MOTHER
THAT TAKEN BEGINS TO READ
"AFTER HIS MOTHER TOUGHT TO
DEFEAT THE UNLEASHING OF A
POWER KNOWN ONLY AS
"THE END OF ALL THAT IS"

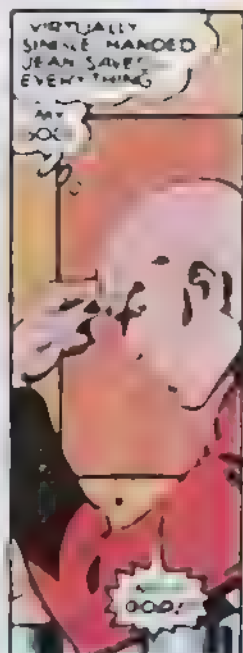
THAT FORCE
WAS A
NEUTRON
GALAXY



"I... I... I...
BY A SERIES OF
MISTAKES I
STAYED IN
THE BLIND
OF MY OWN
DECEIT. I
THOUGHT I
WAS A HERO
BUT I WASN'T

THE
QUICKLY
DROPPED A FLOOR
AND THE ENERGY
MATCHES ARE
IN THE TUBE'S
SOME OF THE
STAYING THE
BACK THE HER
MOTHER

ALL THIS
HANDLES
RAISED
LET ME
HOLD



VIRTUALLY
SINGLE HANDED
JEAN SAVED
EVERYTHING

AT
DOO

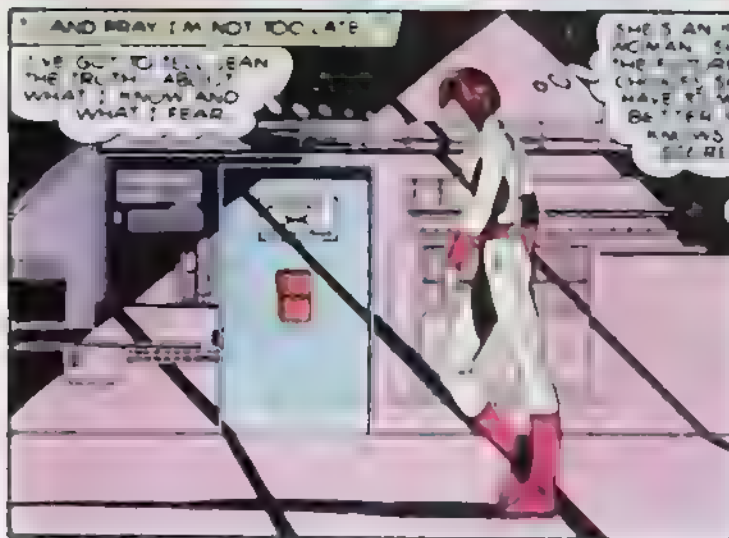
DOO



FOR ALL HER NATURAL
ABILITY JEAN IS ONLY
HUMAN. I DON'T
EVEN I COULDN'T CONTROL
SUCH POWER. SHE
COULDN'T POSSIBLY

I MUST
BE AN
EXPLANATION
AT ONE

0000

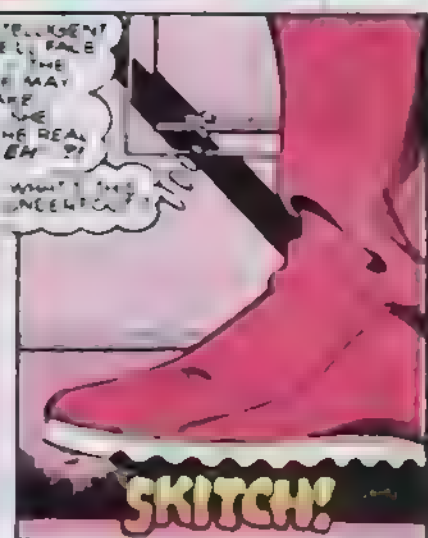


AND PRAY I'M NOT TOO LATE

I'VE GOT TO SEE JEAN
THE TRUTH ABOUT
WHAT I KNOW AND
WHAT I FEAR

SHE'S AN INTELLIGENT
WOMAN. SHE'LL TALK
THE TRUTH. THE
CHANCE SHE MAY
HAVE TO MAKE
BETTER. WE
KNOW THE REAL
TRUTH IS

WHAT THE
NEUTRON

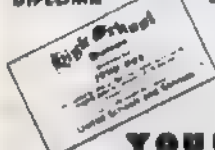


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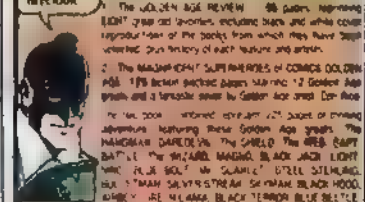
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Talk about your basic surprises. When John Byrne and I set out to chronicle the X-Men's rematch with Vindicator—and the introduction of Alpha Flight—we decided that it would make a nice change-of-pace to set the story in Canada, specifically in John's home town of Calgary. Little did we know what we were letting ourselves in for.

We expected an avalanche of letters from our Canadian readers—and we got it. What we didn't expect was an equally massive avalanche of Canadian media coverage. In the space of two weeks—partly due to the presence of a certain Prime Minister on X-MEN #120's splash page—we were deluged by calls from newspapers, wire services, radio and TV stations, and national magazines. Out of the blue, X-MEN #'s 120 & 121 became an instant coast-to-coast media event.

Just goes to show, truth is stranger than fiction. Seriously, though, all of us who work on the X-MEN are grateful beyond words for the response. Let's do it again, sometime.

—Chris Claremont

Dear Uncanny Ones,

Wow! X-MEN #120! Wow!

Alpha Flight is something else! They make for an interesting tale. I mean, hey, these guys aren't villains. (Maybe, please, could they be considered for their own comic?)

Now for a detailed list of the things I liked about X-MEN #120:

- 1) Wolverine's farewell to the beautiful Mariko.
- 2) The bond of friendship that has formed between Shiro and the X-Men.
- 3) The sheer power of Sasquatch (a shaggy Hulk?)
- 4) The ploy the X-Men used to initially elude Alpha Flight (using their own storm against them, clever)
- 5) The tantalizing glimpses of various members of Alpha Flight (oh! suspense!)
- 6) Calgary! My hometown. Geez! To see the Calgary Tower, and Centre Street & 8th Avenue in a comic (particularly my favorite mag.) Bliss!
- 7) The way Cyclops underestimates the resources of Alpha Flight (people are always underestimating Canadians. This should help show them that we aren't to be trifled with.)
- 8) Ororo's rage in the boutique. I love seeing her in action.
- 9) The ease with which Sasquatch took Wolverine.
- 10) The dialogue throughout.
- 11) The better-than-average Byrne/Austin art (when you consider that their "average" is most people's "superb", how good must that make their "better-than-average"?)

I am really looking forward to "Shoot-Out at the Stampede."

Oh, yes—would it be too much to ask if I wanted you to spell Ottawa correctly, Chris?

Sheldon Wiebe
#6 - 828 Memorial Dr., N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 3C8

As a matter of fact, Sheldon, even before we were swamped in the media blitz, we were considering giving "Alpha Flight" more exposure. This summer, for example, Sasquatch will be making a guest appearance in the HULK ANNUAL. Anyway, there's a possibility that "Alpha Flight" may be showing up in an issue or two of MARVEL PREMIERE. However, we feel obliged to all—reporters included—who noticed, that Chris spelt Ottawa correctly on his original script. Somehow, when the book was lettered, things got scrambled and the mistake wasn't caught. Ah, well—that's life.

Dear Chris & John,

X-MEN #120 appears to be a step in the right direction, back towards excellence after the X-MEN's slump into mere quality since #114. I'm withholding final judgement, however,

until I see the conclusion of the Canadian plotline. The final segments of your recent stories have been the most disappointing.

What I found most delightful about X-MEN #120 was the Canadian setting and characters. The Canadian atmosphere was realistic almost to the point of exaggeration. To write a great satire, one has to be intimately acquainted with one's subject, and Chris and John have done something even more difficult than that; they've taken their subject to the very edge of satire and stepped short.

I've never been to Calgary myself, X-MEN #120 gave me a more convincing picture of Calgary than nearly any comic has ever given me of New York.

And the characters we've only had a glimpse of Alpha Flight, but—like Vindicator himself—they all seem to be hanging on that delightful edge of satire, as Canadian as they can possibly be. (What, no Ukrainian?) And it's about time I had some new female mutants to add to my handy-dandy, up-to-the-minute Marvel Mutants List. Were you aware that, of Marvel's mutants, 53 are men and only 7 are women? Assuming that Alpha Flight are all mutants, the statistics are now 57 to 9. I'll be looking forward avidly to seeing more of Alpha Flight next issue. It's always a joy to see a new team introduced—how else can we get a whole slew of new heroes all at once?

Jana C. Hollingsworth
1415 East 2nd St.
Port Angeles, WA 98362

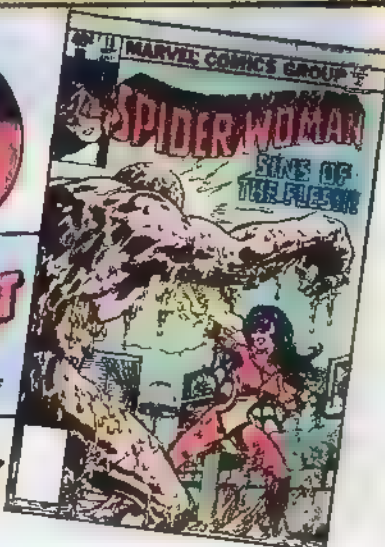
Firstly, Jana, yours and Sheldon's letters are representative of the overwhelming majority of letters we've received thus far concerning X-MEN #120—end, as usual, we've received so many letters that we can't even begin to do them justice in a single page. Regarding the slump you referred to...Chris hasn't been entirely satisfied with his work on the book of late either. However, with this issue—and the Mutant X storyline it introduces—Chris & John think they're really starting to hit their proper stride again. (By the way, your mutant hero statistics are a fraction off; Vindicator, Sasquatch and Shaman are not mutants, so the male/female ratio is 54 to 9.)

NEXT ISSUE: The X-Men are finally re-united, and the hunt for the escaped, deadly, mysterious *Mutant X* begins with a vengeance. And along the way, more on the mystery surrounding Jason Wyngarde and the Hellfire Club, and their ominous plans for Phoenix. So, be here in 30, won't you?



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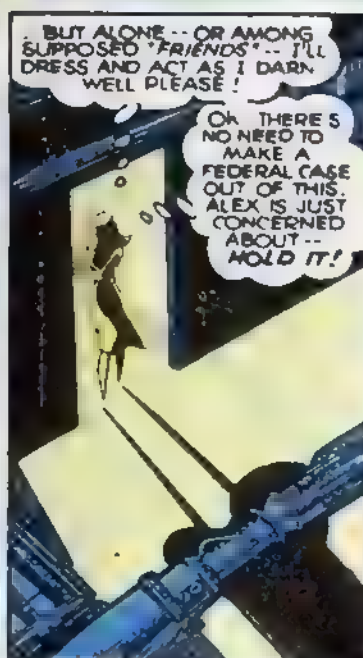
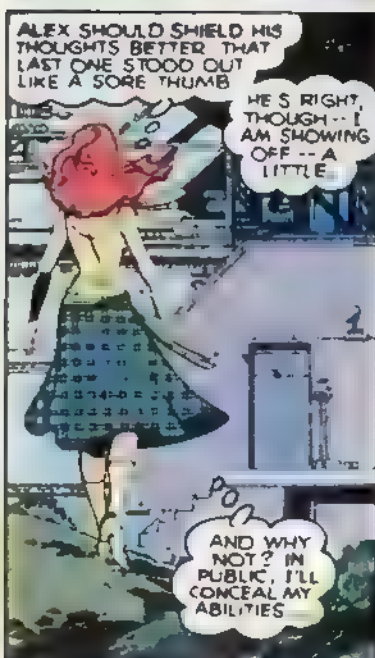
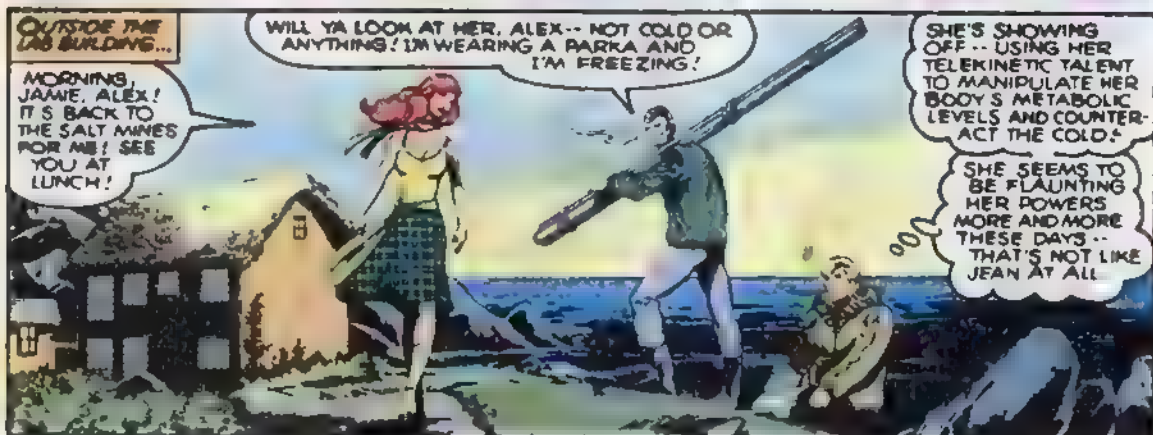
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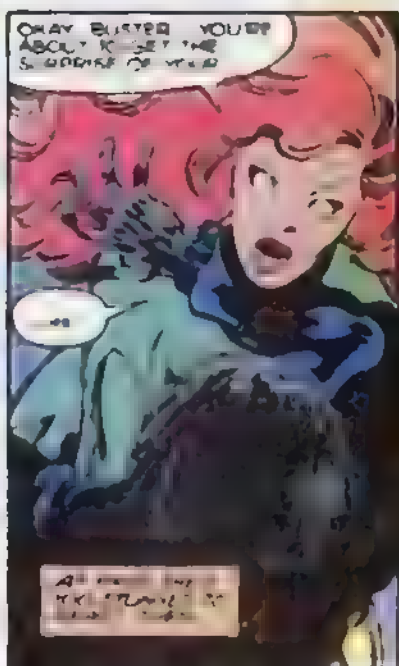
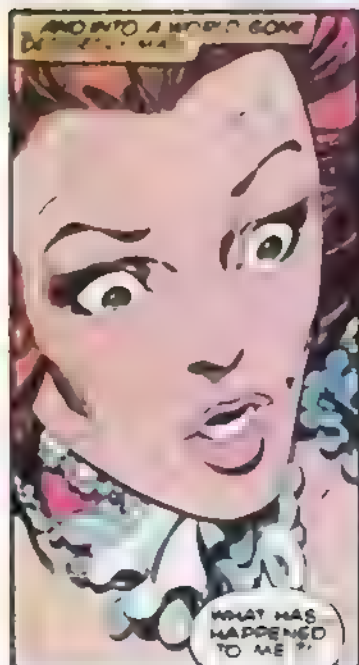
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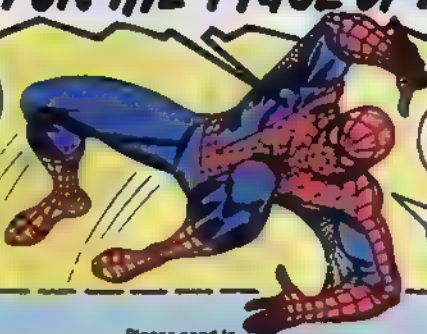




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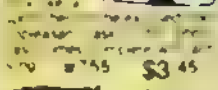
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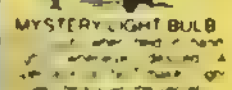
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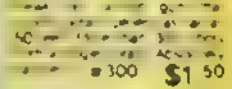
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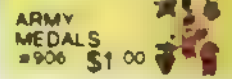
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ACROSS THE ATLANTIC, IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, IT'S AROUND TWO, IN THE MORNING--

EVEN AVENGER HANK MCCOY - A.K.A. THE BEAST-- TAKING TIME OUT FROM A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE TO CHECK UP ON A MANSION HE'D THOUGHT DESERTED

-- AN UNGODLY HOUR FOR ANYONE TO GO VISITING --

LOOKS BAD. ALL THE ALARMS I SET HAVE BEEN DISCONNECTED BY AN EXPERT

FREEZE INTRUDER!

HUN?!

EVERYONE ELSE IS IN THE DANGER ROOM. THEY'LL NEVER HEAR ME THROUGH ITS SOUNDPROOF WALLS. I'LL JUST TAKE CARE OF THIS PROWLER MYSELF.

WHAT HAVE I GOT HERE, ANYWAY? IT FEELS LIKE I'M WRESTLING A GORILLA!

SUDDENLY, A LIGHTNING BOLT SPLITS THE SKY-- THE ROOM FLARING WHITE AROUND THE TWO MEN--

YOU!

YIKES!!

BAMF

OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS.

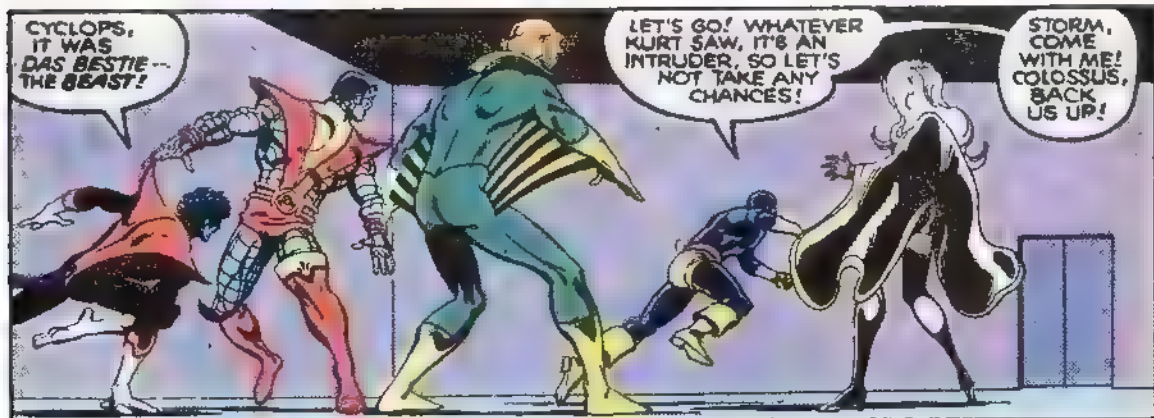
INSTANTLY, INSIDE THE DANGER ROOM--

WHAT THE--?! NIGHTCRAWLER--?

EIN... EIN G-GEIST. CYCLOPS! LARGE AS LIFE, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES! I-- I SAW IT! FOUGHT IT!

FOUGHT WHAT, FRIEND KURT?

A GHOST!!



CYCLOPS,
IT WAS
DAS BESTIE--
THE BEAST!

LET'S GO! WHATEVER
KURT SAW, IT'S AN
INTRUDER, SO LET'S
NOT TAKE ANY
CHANCES!

STORM,
COME
WITH ME!
COLOSSUS,
BACK
US UP!



ALL RIGHT, NO
FALSE MOVES
OR--HANK ??!
IS IT--
REALLY
YOU?!

SCOTTY?!

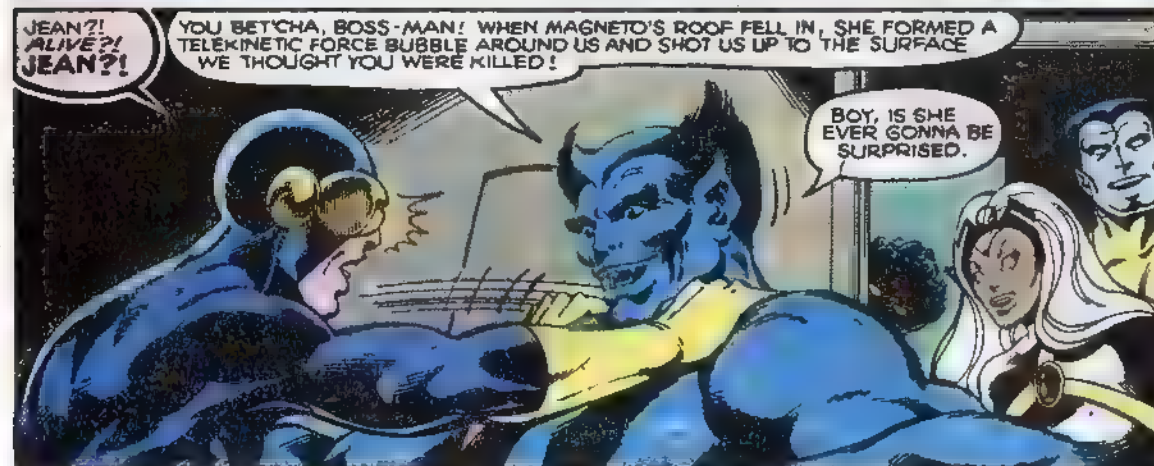


YOU'RE ALIVE!



THIS IS FANTASTIC!
BUT-- HOW DID
YOU ESCAPE ?

JEANIE
GOT ME
OUT!



JEAN?!
ALIVE?!
JEAN?!

YOU BET'CHA, BOSS-MAN! WHEN MAGNETO'S ROOF FELL IN, SHE FORMED A
TELEKINETIC FORCE BUBBLE AROUND US AND SHOT US UP TO THE SURFACE
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE KILLED!

BOY, IS SHE
EVER GONNA BE
SURPRISED.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Sorry! You'll have to wait till next ish to learn more about ODYSSEY, the latest and greatest illustrated mag of our century! Why the wait? Simple. I don't want Marveldom Assembled to think I'm using this column, one of the most widely read literary offerings in publishing, just for the purpose of huckstering new projects. We discussed ODYSSEY last month, so this time let's take a breather while we rap about another, totally different subject— if I can think of one.

Hey I know! Let's yak about our television shows. A lot of va-arious viewers have written to ask why we allow the various producers to change our favorite heroes when they're filmed for tv. Well, if it'll make you feel any better we hate those changes as much as you do. The problem is, we've had to allow the changes—we weren't able to prevent them. You see, although I function as a "consultant", all I can do is butt in and give my opinions (which I do all the time!), but I can't force the producers or the networks to produce the shows the way you and I would want them to. Only the producer can make the final decisions, and Marvel has not yet been the producer.

But don't despair! The times they are a'changin'! We've decided that we'll no

onger allow anyone else to produce shows about our cavortin'. The cast of characters! No sir. Not even if Aunt Petunia begs us to! From now on, anytime someone brings one of our stalwart swashbucklers to the little home screen, that someone will be Marvel! Yep, that's right. We're gonna produce, or co-produce any new Marvel shows our selves!

I can almost hear some of you shouting, "But you guys aren't tv producers! Waddaya know about producing television shows?" Glad you asked, frantic one! Maybe we didn't know much about it before, but you can bet your final Hulk out that we're mighty fast earners—and the next time a Marvel superhero makes it to the screen, he's gonna be depicted the way we created him, the way we popularized him, and the way we want the world to see him!

Now, if that's not enough to get a ra-sizzling argument going amongst the ribald ranks of Marvel, wait'll you see what we come up with later on! But til then, the whole batty bullpen wishes you a superabundance of laughs, luck, and love! Stay cool hang loose and tread easy—the best's yet to come!

Excelsior!

Stan

Shooter, who? and bunches more! *Thou* sands of fearless fans turned out to see our crazy crew and other guest pros, to buy and swap comics, and to hobnob about the latest happenings. Our gracious hosts Adam Malin and Gary Berman did a great job, and a good time was had by all!

ITEM! *Great Moments in Comics Dep't* A ton of things are transpiring this month that you ought not to miss. Hold on to your seats friends, and keep a box of Kleenex handy, because never before in the history of Marvel have so much triumph, tragedy and sheer drama been packed into a single month! We can hear the cynics out there saying "prove it!" Okay, guys, how's this for openers: in the gripping pages of *THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN* #196 Peter Parker finds him self truly alone in the world for the first time. You dare not miss "Requiem, May Parker." Tragedy doesn't stop there either, as in *CAPTAIN AMERICA* #237, Steve Rogers must face the irrevocable fact of Sharon Carter's death. This may well be one of the most powerful, poignant scenes ever depicted



ITEM! First and foremost, *congratulations* to ace editor, Rakish Rick Marschal and his beautiful wife Nancy on the arrival of brand new baby Heather Elizabeth! The whole Bullpen is bursting with best wishes for Heavenly Heather, and we're sure that now Marveldom Assembled shares our feelings. Incidentally, Sturdy Statman Stu Schwartzberg is offering five-to-one odds that Heather's first words are "Super Spec a!" No takers so far.

ITEM! Speaking of Super Specs, elsewhere on this page we announce the long-awaited *Weirdworld* Super Special that was mentioned in this column many moons ago. Back then, we planned for it to be absolutely breath-taking—a masterpiece. Lo, these many months,

we've been working on it and as creative endeavors are wont to do, it has grown, developed and changed. And we're proud to say, it's even *better* than we'd ever dared to hope! No words we say here can possibly do this work justice, so we simply want to thank Doug Moench, John Buscema, Rudy Nebres, Peter Ledger, Rick Marschal, Ralph Macchio and all the other folks, too numerous to mention who contributed to this superlative effort. Thanks, guys!

ITEM! Several Bullpenners, including Stan the Man, were guests at the back-to-back Spring Creation Conventions held in New York and Philadelphia a few weeks back. Other notables present included John Buscema, John Romita, Gene Colan, George Perez, Jim

in illustrated fiction. Can Captain America rebuild his shattered life? We'll tell you this much: after this landmark story, entitled "From the Ashes," the Living Legend will never be the same again! Meanwhile, in the *AVENGERS* #187, at last, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch learn the secret of their true origin! And speaking of origins, *MARVEL TWO-IN ONE* #55 introduces the new Giant Man! What a month! There's more, of course, but we'll let you see for yourselves when you visit your local newsstand! Better go now, friends!

HEY!

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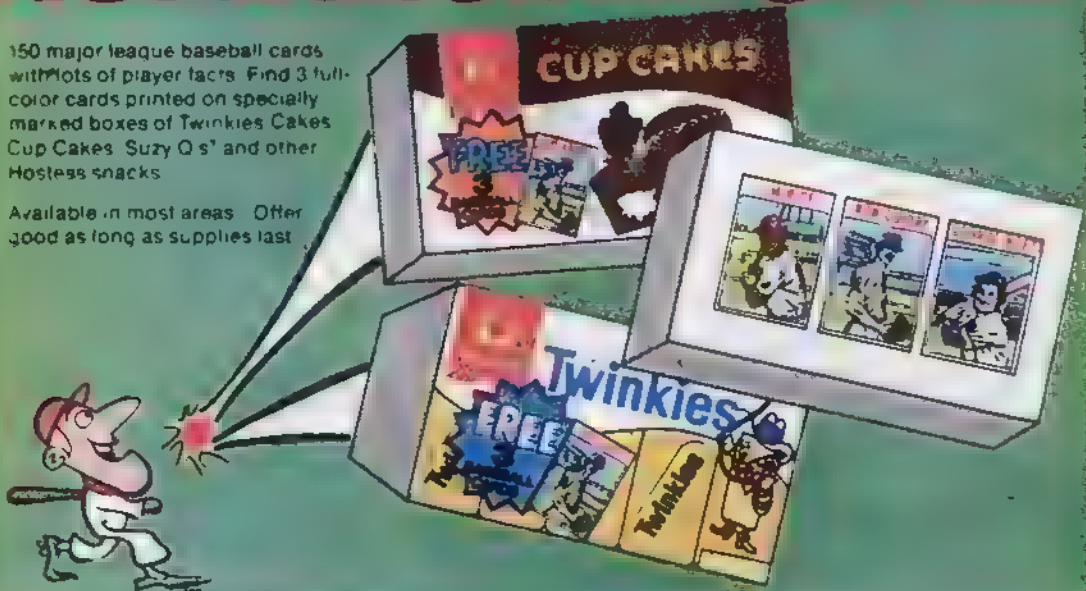


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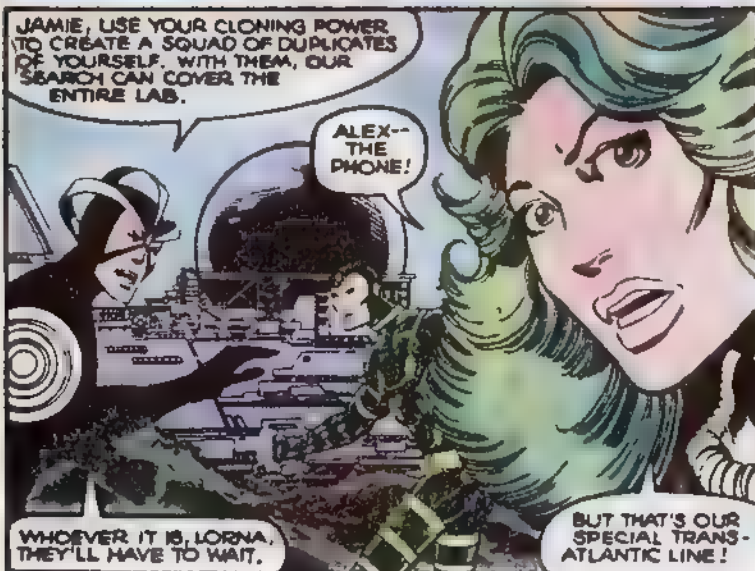
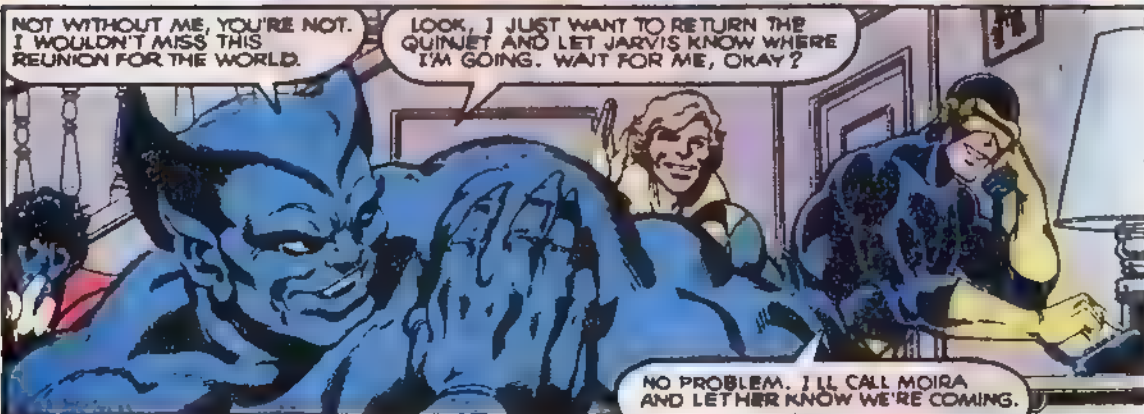
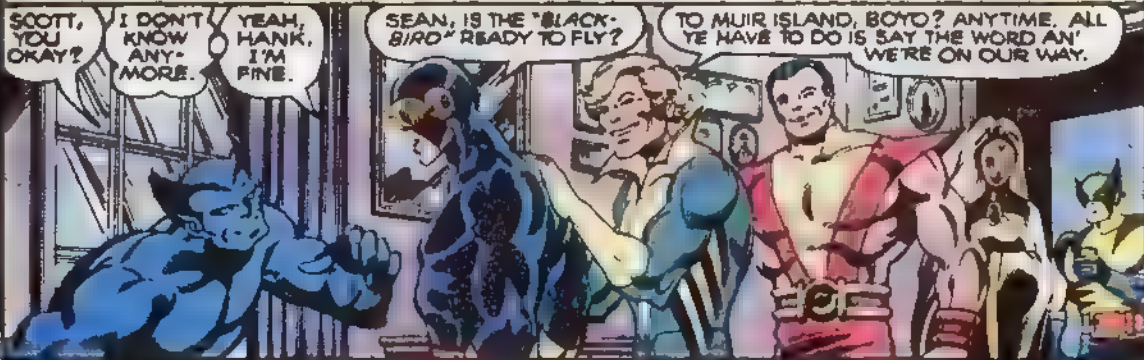
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THE NEXT FEW MINUTES ARE SOMEWHAT HECTIC AS EVERYONE COMPARES NOTES -- AND THE BEAST EXPLAINS WHY THE MANSION WAS LOCKED UP, WHERE PROFESSOR XAVIER AND JEAN HAVE GONE...





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